

Course Syllabus
FIN 3320 Business Finance
Fall 2017 – Fri 1:00pm-3:45pm – JSOM 2.103

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor: Mahdi Fahimi
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Office Hours: by appointment
Website: eLearning and *Connect*

Course Prerequisites:

Prerequisites: MATH 1326, MATH 2333 (or OPRE 3333), ACCT 2301, ACCT 2302, & MIS 3300.
Co-requisite: STAT 3360 or OPRE 3360.

Course Description:

This course is an introduction to corporate finance. It serves as the basis for all other courses in the area of finance and provides the basic financial tool set every business student will need to be successful in her/his chosen career. Students majoring in business administration and accounting, as well as those going further in the study of finance, will find the material to be an essential part of their business education. Regardless of the student's chosen career, these tools and techniques will provide the foundation for making personal financial decisions.

Course Objectives:

You will learn to understand how and when to apply the basic concepts of financial analysis in a business setting, demonstrated through your ability to:

- Be able to apply time value of money concepts to various valuation problems.
 - Be able to describe what drives a firm's cost of capital and how to estimate it.
 - Be able to analyze strategic investments in real and financial assets using various methodologies.
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Required Text:

Fundamentals of Corporate Finance, 11th Ed., by Ross, Westerfield and Jordan, McGraw-Hill/Irwin, 2016 with a ***Connect Plus* access code** is required. ***Connect*** is an online browser-based platform that includes a digital version of the textbook and practice questions, and allows completion and submission of online homework assignments. Access to McGraw-Hill Connect is required for this course.

The web address for this course on *Connect* is:

<http://connect.mheducation.com/class/mfahimi-fall-2017>

Calculator:

You will need a financial calculator in this course. I will use a **Texas Instruments BA II Plus Financial Calculator** in the classroom. You are allowed to use any calculator that you prefer on exams except for (i) calculators that reside on smart phones or (ii) any calculator that has wireless access to the internet. Also, if you use a programmable calculator (e.g., TI-83 Plus or TI-84), you are not allowed to use the programming features of your calculator. An exam proctor will check your calculator before (or during) each exam to be sure that it complies

with this rule; if the calculator is not in compliance, the proctor has the authority to remove your calculator for further use on the exam. Please do not risk having to incur the consequences. If you plan to use an unfamiliar, obscure type of calculator, you should check with me before the exam date to avoid any potential complications during the actual exam.

Grading Policy:

Your grade will be based largely upon your performance on four exams, including a comprehensive final exam that will be taken in common, by all students who are enrolled in all of the various sections of FIN 3320 this semester. Exam dates are listed in the Course Schedule at the end of the syllabus.

Graded Item	Weight
Exam 1	20%
Exam 2	20%
Exam 3	20%
Homework Assignments	15%
Uniform Final Exam	25%
Total	100%
Class Activity Bonus	+5%

Your letter grade will be determined based on your total points relative to class average. I expect approximately the top 25-35% receive an A- or higher, the next 40-50% receive a B- to B+ grade, the next 20-30% receive a C- to C+, and the remaining (up to 5% of the class) receive a D+ or lower, including an F.

Exam low score replacement

If lowest score out of Exams 1, 2 and 3 (you should have taken these exams, this would not hold for a missed exam) is less than Uniform Final Exam score, then the Uniform Final Exam score will be used in lieu of the low score.

Homeworks:

The homework for this class will be assigned through the McGraw-Hill *Connect* system. Once we finish a chapter, the homework becomes available on *Connect* and you will have 1 week to submit your answers. You will be allowed two attempts at each assignment. I will use the highest of the two scores to calculate your individual assignment grade. I will drop the two lowest homework scores for each student when calculating the overall homework grade.

Exams Policy:

Exams are closed-book, closed-notes. Laptops are **not** allowed. The only kinds of calculators that are allowed are described in the Calculators section above. You must also each bring your Comet Card for proper identification during each exam.

I do not allow make-up exams. If you are to miss an exam due to acceptable circumstances, you must notify me prior to your absence, and I will explain your options to you. I reiterate: I do not allow you to make up for a missed exam if you do not notify me of your absence beforehand. On the other hand, if you do proactively approach me, I will provide you with a fair, reasonable option in the event that you have to miss an exam.

Uniform Final Exam:

A **common final exam** will be given for all students across all sections of this FIN 3320 course during the final exams week. The FIN 3320 common final exam will be taken online and administered at UTD's testing center located in the basement of the McDermott Library. Students will be required to reserve a seat in the testing center in order to take the exam – no walk-ins will be allowed.

You **cannot** make up this exam if you miss it. You will not be allowed to bring backpacks, bags, books, cell-phones, laptops, notebooks, scratch paper, or calculators that store text (such as graphing calculators). You will have to bring a pencil, an eraser, an acceptable financial calculator, and a photo ID (UTD Comet Card (preferred), state driver's license, or passport).

Students will not be able to take the exam without a photo ID. Emergencies such as hospitalization, car wrecks on the way to the test, etc., will have to be substantiated by supporting documents and in these cases the students will receive an incomplete in the course and will take the exam during the next scheduled final exam for Fin 3320. **There will be no exceptions.**

Academic Integrity:

The faculty expects a high level of responsibility and academic honesty from its students. Academic responsibility and honesty are important and any departures and/or violations could severely affect your grade and university status. For additional information, please see <http://policy.utdallas.edu/utdsp5003>.

Withdrawals:

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. The student is responsible for fulfilling the withdrawal requirements associated with any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" and receive a "W" instead in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled. I will not announce withdrawal deadlines or any other enrollment-related dates.

University of Texas at Dallas Policies and Procedures for Students:

The University of Texas at Dallas provides a number of policies and procedures designed to provide students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Brief summaries of the policies and procedures are provided for you at <http://go.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies> and include information about technical support, field trip policies, off-campus activities, student conduct and discipline, academic integrity, copyright infringement, email use, withdrawal from class, student grievance procedures, incomplete grades, access to Disability Services (Office of Student AccessAbility – OSA), religious holy days, and avoiding plagiarism. You may also seek further information at these sites: <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents>, <http://www.utdallas.edu/deanofstudents/policies>, and <http://www.utdallas.edu/studentaccess>.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at my discretion.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Date	Topic	Homework Due
Aug.25	Introduction, Ch. 2	
Sep.1	Chs. 3, 5	Ch. 2
Sep.8	Chs. 5, 6	Ch. 3
Sep.15	Ch. 6, Review	Ch. 5
Sep.22	Exam 1 (Chs. 2, 3, 5, 6)	Ch. 6
Sep.29	Ch. 7, 8	
Oct.6	Ch. 8, 9	Ch. 7
Oct.13	Ch. 10, Review	Chs. 8, 9
Oct.20	Exam 2 (Chs. 7, 8, 9, 10)	Ch. 10
Oct.27	Chs. 11, 13	
Nov.3	Chs. 13, 14	Ch. 11
Nov.10	Chs. 14, Review	Ch. 13
Nov.17	Exam 3 (Chs. 11, 13, 14)	Ch. 14
Nov.24	(Fall Break)	
Dec.1	Review for Final	
Dec.8-14	Uniform Final Exam (Comprehensive)	